

Serial No. 10/734,266  
Response dated April 5, 2005 in  
Reply to Office Action of March 7, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicant accepts the Examiner's restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. 121, and elects, without traverse, to restrict the present application to the invention identified as Invention I by the Examiner on page 2 of his Office action, namely, the invention claimed in Claims 1 and 3-11, drawn to a cleaning device, classified in class 210, subclass 242.4. Therefore, Claims 1 and 3-11 remain in this application. Claims 12-18, which the Examiner has identified as being drawn to a cleaning device in combination with a floating member having a disinfectant agent dispenser, classified in class 210, subclass 198.1 (*i.e.* Invention II), have been withdrawn.

The withdrawal of Claims 12-18 is without prejudice to the Applicant's right to present Claims 12-18 (*i.e.* the non-elected Invention II) in a later filed divisional application, which application shall be entitled to the benefit of the filing date of the original application, namely, December 15, 2003, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 121.

The Applicant respectfully submits that the withdrawal of Claims 12-18 does not affect the inventorship for the present application, and appreciates the Examiner's kind reminder in this regard at the top of page 3 of his last Office action.

The Examiner has further noted in his last Office action that the Applicant has added in the Applicant's amendment filed December 16, 2004, to both the specification and claims, the limitation that the securing means ensures buoyancy of the absorbent body (*i.e.* paragraph 0011 of the specification; and lines 8-9 of previously amended Claim 1). To overcome the Examiner's objection in this regard, Claim 1 has been currently amended to delete reference to the questioned limitation that the securing means ensures buoyancy of the absorbent body, and to clarify lines 7-8 of currently amended Claim 1, that the cleaning

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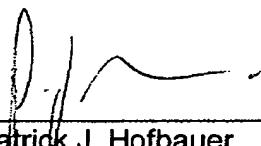
device comprises a securing means for removably securing the absorbent body member to the floating member with the active surface portion of the absorbent body member in contactable relation to the fluid surface level. Moreover, the specification has been amended at paragraph 0011 to conform its language to that of amended Claim 1. It is the Applicant's respectful submission that no new matter has been introduced into the specification by this amendment.

The Applicant's previous remarks with respect to the patentability of the presently amended Claims 1 and 3-11 over the previously cited prior art references are repeated and confirmed.

Unless specifically stated to the contrary herein, all amendments made herein were made for the purposes of clarifying the claims, only, and were not made for reasons relating to 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 or 103.

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the preceding amendments and remarks with a view toward timely issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If after reviewing this response, the Examiner believes that a telephone or personal interview would facilitate the resolution of any remaining matters, the undersigned attorney may be contacted at the number set forth hereinbelow, and such contact is encouraged.

Respectfully submitted



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Patrick J. Hofbauer  
Registration No. 32,336  
Tel: 905.634.0040

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